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24 October 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director

SUBJECT : Rejustification for MOLOTOVSK Coverage  
by AQUATONE

1. On 7 October 1957 the Ad Hoc Requirements Committee submitted a justification for AQUATONE coverage of SEVEROMORSK and MOLOTOVSK. Subsequently AQUATONE coverage was achieved of SEVEROMORSK but MOLOTOVSK was cloud-covered,

2. The Ad Hoc Requirements Committee now recommends that, if operationally feasible and if political permission can be obtained, AQUATONE coverage be acquired of MOLOTOVSK, the case for which was submitted in the justification paper [redacted]

3. It can be logically asked whether the assumption stated in paragraph 2 a of that memorandum was shown to be valid as a result of the coverage of SEVEROMORSK. This assumption was that the camera configuration and exploitation equipment available today would be able to reveal critical data bearing on the guided missiles [redacted] requirements. Whereas it is too soon to answer this categorically in the affirmative, processing and application of certain techniques in HTAUTOMAT currently under way point to a high probability that the assumption we made is indeed valid.

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4. For your ready reference, we have checked on pages 3, 4, and 5 of the referenced memorandum the specific physical objects which we hope to see and in fact now see indicating these still in question. It will be noted that Category a dealing with Guided Missiles: Submarines and Surface Vessels [ ] bear upon physical objects which it was anticipated for the most part would be seen at MOLOTOVSK and vicinity.

5. Recognizing that time is required to fully exploit the excellent photography achieved over SEVEROMORSK which if completed would have at least some bearing upon the urgency of coverage of MOLOTOVSK at this time, we call attention to the fact that coverage of MOLOTOVSK in this season is still possible but there are relatively few days remaining in which the light angle would be acceptable for photography (at least 10° up until 5 November 1957). It is very important that MOLOTOVSK be covered in this season, if at all possible, [ ]

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JAMES Q. REBER  
Chairman  
Ad Hoc Requirements Committee

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